



Rockville Takes Major Step in Environmental Improvements

In June, the Mayor and Council took an important step toward one of their main initiatives — improving the environment — by trying a new and unique process of applying gypsum dust to sediment control traps on the King Farm to increase their efficiency. The process took approximately one hour and was done in one of the traps located east of Gaither Road and south of Redland Road near the stream.

After the gypsum was applied to the trap, the out flow was monitored for the next several weeks to see the differences. And so far, the differences have been significant. Sediment control devices are normally about 70 percent efficient in removing sedimentary particles from the storm water runoff, and the City’s research has shown that the traps at the King Farm were getting just about that efficiency. The day after the gypsum was applied, turbidity, or cloudiness of the water, dropped significantly, and several days after the application when the City tested the area, staff reported efficiency levels of about 98 percent with turbidity levels

close to that of tap water. Staff will continue to monitor the trap for the next several weeks to gauge the life expectancy of each application.

The gypsum dust was used to minimize the sediment impact on the Watts Branch stream valley. When sediment

chemical added to water to get very tiny particles of sediment to clump together). At a convention earlier this year, the City learned from some environmental representatives from Australia that this use of gypsum as a treatment is common practice there.

Water readings made directly after the test and the next day showed that the gypsum clearly keeps the sediment from going back into suspension and therefore prevents it from leaving the trap and eventually the site.

The amount of gypsum used in the treatment was carefully evaluated over the course of several months. Jar samples of sediment-laden water were taken daily and gypsum applied in varying quantities to the samples. Untreated samples would take up to several days to clear while treated samples would clear in a matter of minutes to a few hours or up to one day depending on the application rate. The City based its field application rates on those jar test results.

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leaves any land-disturbing operation, whether it’s a construction site or a farming operation, the damage done to the receiving body of water can be significant. The City has been dealing with this problem since development began on the King Farm. Citizens from downstream have been constantly on the alert for any change to the color of the water flowing in Watts Branch.

Rockville has been researching information about the use of gypsum and other materials as a “flocculent” (a

The process is fairly simple. The gypsum was mixed in a large container that is normally used for chemical hydroseeding (a common practice used on construction sites to spread a mixture of fertilizer, seed, and a chemical tack to hold the mixture in place on disturbed soil that needs to be re-stabilized with grass or other vegetation). In this experimental process, the gypsum was mixed with water and sprayed over the surface area of the sediment trap.

CALL 301-309-3229 FOR MORE INFO

Keeping You Informed with the “City Projects Update” Insert

Rockville has developed the “City Projects Update” insert to keep you informed about what’s going on in your City.

The projects have been broken down by department and by neighborhood. Your input is essential to implementing the necessary projects which will enhance the quality of life of all City residents.

Some projects in which the City would appreciate your involvement are:

- The Rock Creek Watershed Management Study
- The Watts Branch Watershed Management Study
- The construction of the Nature Center at Rockville Civic Center Park
- The implementation of the Bikeways Master Plan
- The Nelson Street Traffic Safety Improvements

This section is intended to amplify the regular monthly “City Projects Update” column which appears on page two of “Rockville Reports.” In months when this insert is published, the regular column will not appear.

CALL 301-315-6527 FOR MORE INFO

Rock Creek Watershed Improvements

In July, Rockville’s Department of Public Works (DPW) presented recommendations to the community on potential improvements for the Rock Creek Watershed.

The ongoing watershed study, commissioned by the Mayor and Council in partnership with Montgomery County, will highlight stream problems throughout Rock Creek and propose solutions that help to stabilize eroding streambanks, improve water quality and aquatic habitat, and make our stream valleys more enjoyable for our residents. The first part of the study is near completion. The consultant and DPW have evaluated current watershed conditions and have created a list of promising stormwater management (SWM) improvements and stream stabilization needs.

Rockville is seeking input from the public on the potential watershed projects listed below. The most promising projects will be examined more closely in the next phase of the study, which will develop conceptual engineering plans for these sites.

At the open house and site visits in

July, DPW offered the following sites as good candidates for further investigation. A number of other possibilities also are under consideration but do not appear as feasible. Please note that although a site may proceed to the next phase of conceptual engineering design, it does NOT ensure that the facility will be built. Technical problems, community concerns, or other limitations may cause a project to be dropped during the next phase, which should conclude in spring 1999.

Stormwater management improvement possibilities include:

- Northeast Park pond: add a small wet pond area
- RedGate Golf Course: repair/modify several of the larger golf course ponds to provide better stormwater controls
- Twinbrook Metro West: add a permanent wet pool to the facility
- Dover Road North: add a second wet pond upstream of the existing SWM facility. (This project was already under design prior to the Rock Creek Watershed Study, and construction will start this year.)
- City’s Public Works Maintenance: modify dry pond to enhance

pollutant removal capabilities

- Civic Center Park: add a new offline wet pond or wetland marsh in the floodplain of Rock Creek near Glenview Mansion.

The following locations were targeted by the City’s consultant as high-priority locations for stream stabilization:

- The upper reach of Rockcrest Park
- Spot stabilization on Twinbrook Park (to be done concurrently with the new recreation center construction)
- Spot stabilization on RedGate Golf Course
- A reach of Calvin Park tributary below Baltimore Road
- A drainageway between Rockville High School and the adjacent apartments
- The head of Twinbrook Tributary near Alsace Lane and Halpine Road
- Spot stabilization along Maryvale Tributary between First Street and the Civic Center Park (behind Burdette Road)

CALL 301-315-6527 FOR MORE INFO

City Projects

For more information, call 301-315-6527.

Recreation and Parks

Civic Center Park

Pedestrian Bridge

Replace pedestrian bridge in Shapiro tract of Civic Center Park at Nature Trail over Croyden Creek at old Avery Road

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre "South Corridor"

Enclose causeway linking theater lobby to stage area and Social Hall • install elevator • approximate start Aug. 1998, completion Jan. 1999

Theatre Social Hall

Replace concrete deck • summer/fall 1998

Cottage

Preserve architectural elements • make ADA accessible • approximate start fall

Nature Center

Design of new Nature Center to be located near Shapiro Tract at Civic Center Park • citizens urged to get involved

Glenview Mansion

Life safety improvements • upgrades to heating system • structural repairs

King Farm

King Farm Parks Master Plan

92+ acres of parks • includes two park/school sites, homestead, and 47 acres of passive forested parks • includes playgrounds, athletic fields, and courts • re-uses for homestead sought

Twinbrook

Playground Equipment/Fitness Trail

Replacement of playground equipment at Twinbrook Park

Twinbrook Recreation Center

Includes gym, fitness center, multi-purpose rooms, computer center, and office • approximate start Aug. 1998, completion nine-12 months

Tower Oaks

Cabin John Wetlands Park

12-acre forest/stream valley park to be dedicated to City as part of Boston Properties development in Tower Oaks • surrounds Cabin John Creek • to include perimeter pathway, picnic areas

East Rockville

Grandin Ave. Park

Construction of new park where water tank was removed (*see page 4*) • park to be constructed in fall/winter 1999

Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park Community Center

Renovate existing facility • space for computer center and police substation • approximate start fall 1998 with completion spring 1999

Isreal Park Ballfield

Improvements to ballfield drainage to make park more usable • construction scheduled for 1999

Hungerford/Stoneridge

Elwood Smith Community Center Improvements

Design to begin this fall • Repaint and renovate interior and exterior of Community Center • upgrade water and sewer lines to current code • expand center to include secure area for computers • construction scheduled for late 1999 • extensive community outreach planned with neighbors and local citizens groups during design

General Projects

City Hall Improvements and Expansion

Renovations to various City Hall offices to accommodate citizen services and staff • study of options for adding needed offices to accommodate future growth • construct or lease additional office space slated for 2001

RedGate Golf Course

Upgrade maintenance facilities and shop • replace overflow structure on irrigation pond adjacent to hole #3 • design of replacement irrigation system • design/construct new front tee areas on holes #5 and #17

Swim Center Master Plan

Replace lockers in men's indoor locker room

Veterans Memorial

To be installed this summer in Veterans Park • co-funded by City and contributions from veterans organizations and individuals

Gude Drive Gym

Construction of gym and exercise facility adjacent to City's maintenance complex at Rothgeb Drive • will provide additional needed programming space and time for youth and adult sports programs plus drop-in use • design in 1999, with construction in 2000

Gude Drive Vehicle Wash

Semi-automated washing facility for City trucks and other vehicles • will improve maintenance and long-term care of fleet

Roadway Beautification

Additional flower beds and landscaping improvements at various locations throughout City

Elwood Smith Community Center

General renovations and improvements plus an additional room added • ADA upgrades design in 1999, construction slated for July 1999 • community meeting scheduled for fall/winter

City-Wide Bicycle Route System

First year construction of bike paths, lanes, and routes per the Bikeway Master Plan • "bicycle beltway" to be constructed in 1999 and 2000 with routes connecting Town Center and neighborhoods • detailed design in cooperation with Citizen Bicycle Action Committee (*see page 4*)

Mark Twain School Athletic Park

Lighted, athletic-field complex to be built • approximate start November, completion spring 1999

Asphalt/Concrete Improvements

Projects include renovations to Wootton Parkway bikepaths, Horizon Hill Park pathways, Rockville Municipal Swim Center parking lot/driveways, Civic Center Park driveways, Potomac Woods Park parking lot, Dogwood Park pathways, and parking at Senior Center • conversion of Veirs driveway at Woottons Mill Park to bikepath

Athletic Court Systems Improvements

Design of in-line and skateboarding facility (construction in 2000) • Welsh Park fence replacement • Dogwood Park fence replacement • Welsh Park practice tennis and rollerblade lighting replacement • Woodley Gardens Park basketball court lighting replacement • Pumphouse Park fencing replacement • Woottons Mill tennis courts/resurface and fencing • Woottons Mill basketball court resurfacing • Bullards Park basketball court resurfacing • Horizon Hill Park basketball court resurfacing • Potomac Woods tennis courts resurfacing

Rockville Re-creates Wetland



Dusty Hill Farm (pictured above) is an upper Montgomery County site that was used to mitigate wetland areas lost during the construction of Wootton Parkway in Rockville. Instead of building seven scattered wetland sites in Rockville, the City, with the authority of the Maryland Department of the Environment, created one large, contiguous wetland which ultimately will provide a greater benefit to the state's streams.

The site also offered an innovative and cost effective way of providing mitigation that can serve as a model for similar wetland mitigation projects in Maryland.

Watershed areas on the farm were re-graded to accommodate new wetlands vegetation planted on the farm along the Cabin John watershed. Since the wetlands areas were created, the quality of the stream and erosion problems have improved greatly. This improvement also has added to the diversity of plant and animal life in and around the watershed.

Public Works

Tower Oaks

Tower Oaks/I-270 Traffic Signal

Will reduce congestion and improve safety • approximate completion Nov. 1998

Burgundy Estates Baltimore Road Improvement Study

Examine options for improving road ongoing with approximate completion in Dec. 1998 • considerable input from local residents requested

Woodley Gardens/ West End

Nelson Street Traffic Safety Improvements

Enhance safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers turning to and from side streets • includes Nelson Street between West Montgomery Avenue and College Parkway • includes addition of landscaped medians, crosswalks, and bike lines

King Farm

King Farm Master Plan

Construction/reconstruction of roads to support King Farm development and through traffic • ongoing project with completion in summer 1998

West End

Luckett Street Drainage

Correct localized flooding at Luckett Street, Beall Avenue, and Lynch Street • approximate start spring 1999 with completion in summer 1999 • significant impact during construction • roads partially blocked • sign with schedule will be erected • community meeting scheduled for fall 1998

Rockshire

Aintree Stormwater Management (SWM) Pond

Improve condition of Watts Branch by modifying existing SWM facility • new SWM will be a wet marsh located at Wootton Mill Park by Aintree Drive cul-de-sac • ongoing with completion in fall 1998 • heavy equipment will be used • sign with schedule erected

Hungerford/ Stoneridge

Hungerford-Stoneridge SWM Pond/Stream Improvements

To slow erosion and enhance water quality in Cabin John Creek • located at end of Cabin John Parkway at former Hungerford-Stoneridge swimming pool • ongoing with completion in fall 1998 • temporary construction impact and inconvenience • sign with schedule erected

Mt. Vernon SWM Pond

Improve condition of Upper Cabin John Creek • located at Mt. Vernon Place, east of Blandford Road • approximate start summer 1999 with completion in fall 1999 • temporary construction impact and inconvenience • sign with schedule erected

Potomac Woods/ Potomac Falls

Potomac Woods SWM Pond/ Stream Improvements

Located at Potomac Woods Park near lower ball field • improve condition of Bogley Branch • approximate start Sept. 1998 with completion in spring 1999 • temporary construction and inconvenience • sign with schedule erected

Town Center

Town Center Streets

Install or extend new streets • ongoing with completion in Nov. 1998

Town Center Street Lights/ Traffic Signals

Replace and upgrade obsolete lighting and signals • ongoing • approximately 50 obsolete street lights to be replaced in 1998

Town Center Parking Meters

Install parking meters on newly constructed streets in Town Center (Court-house Square, Maryland Avenue, and Monroe Place) and at the Middle Lane Parking Lot • ongoing with completion in fall 1998

General Projects

Street Geometric Improvements

Ongoing concrete/mortar improvements to city transportation facilities

Gude Drive/Research Boulevard Right Turn Lane

Improve capacity and safety • replace damaged pavement • approximate start date Aug. 1998, completion Nov. 1998 • adjacent property owners will be notified in advance

Neighborhood Traffic Control

Slow traffic and improve safety • ongoing project speed humps prospects: Sunrise Drive, Greenplace Terrace, Mount Vernon Place, Ashley Avenue, Hinslow Drive, Crawford Drive, and North Stonestreet Avenue

Southlawn Lane

Engineering design for street improvements • approximate start Sept. 1998 with completion in Dec. 1998 • considerable input from local residents requested

Arterial Street Lighting

City-side improvements and additions Twinbrook Parkway in Aug. 1998 and Watts Branch Parkway in Sept. 1998

Street Milling and Resurfacing

Removal of crown and restoration of surface of streets in conjunction with “smoothseal” program • city-wide with majority of work in Rockcrest/ Warrens addition area • ongoing with completion in Aug. 1998 • temporary traffic diversions • signs will be posted

PEPCO Street Lighting

Improve street lights owned by PEPCO but as directed by City • ongoing

Dover Road SWM Pond

Improve the condition of Rock Creek located at southwest corner of Dover Road at Old Dover Road • ongoing with completion in Aug. 1998 • temporary construction impact and inconvenience • sign with schedule erected

Removal of Fish Barriers

Remove obstructions in streams which create barriers for fish movement in Wootton Parkway culverts across Cabin John and Dawson Farm Creeks • to take place in summer 1998

Talbott Street Water Tank

Restore, repair, and protect exterior • approximate start Sept. 1998 with completion in Nov. 1998 • possible significant noise level • sign with schedule erected

Water Main Relining

Improve the flow and pressure of water distribution system • located at Denham Road, Edmonston Road, and Rollins Avenue • will take place in spring 1999 • temporary impact and inconvenience

Water Treatment Plant Intake Upgrades

Replace old and unreliable pumps at intake structure on Potomac River • located at Potomac River south of Swains Lock • ongoing with completion in June 1999

Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

Repair components of aging waste water collection system • will take place in summer 1998 • ongoing project • localized, temporary impact dependent on condition of system

Horners Lane Pump Station

Replace old waste water pump located at Horners Lane and Lincoln Avenue • approximate start Oct. 1998 with completion in Nov. 1998 • sign with schedule will be erected

Watts Branch Sewer Upgrade

Increase capacity of Watts Branch sewer system to accommodate ultimate development in Watts Branch sewer basin pumping station constructed at King Farm • sewer from Gude Drive to Key West Avenue to Darnestown Road to Glen Mill Road to Wootton Parkway to stream valley south of Wootton Parkway to city limit • ongoing with completion in June '99 • some areas will experience temporary disruption of traffic flow

Sidewalks

Close gaps in system • ongoing completion in 1998: Halpine Road, S. Adams Street, Scott Drive • upcoming: Beall Avenue, Monroe Street at Americana Center • some projects can result in temporary diversion of pedestrian traffic • adjacent property owners will be notified

Mayor and Council Create Partnership on Watts Branch

Rockville’s Mayor and Council invite area civic associations, business interests, environmentalists, and citizens to join a partnership to help protect and preserve the Watts Branch Watershed. The goal of the partnership is to create a forum for communication so that the City and its citizens can work together to solve watershed issues. The first meeting will be on Wednesday, July 22, from 7-9 p.m., at the Rockshire Community Center.

The partnership will assist City staff in determining important watershed issues to be looked at in the Watts Branch Watershed study. The study, to begin in Jan. 1999, will examine current watershed conditions and recommend actions to be taken to protect the Watts Branch from continuing erosion and water pollution. The City will select a consultant to perform the study this fall.

Other functions of the Watershed Partnership may include monitoring watershed environmental quality and park conditions, and working with City staff to develop public education programs.

Rockville Seeks Citizens to Serve on Nature Center Committee

The Mayor and Council are seeking citizens to help guide the construction of a new Nature Center by joining a citizens steering committee.

The Nature Center will be built in 1999 and will be located in the Rockville Civic Center Park adjacent to the Woodland Trail which was constructed by citizens during National Trails Day in 1994. The Center will be available for use by schools, scouts, garden clubs, and recreation programs, and will be open for general visitation.

If you are interested in taking part in this project, send a letter to Betsy Thompson, Rockville Recreation and Parks Department, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville MD 20850, or e-mail her at bthompsn@ci.rockville.md.us.

CALL 301-309-3344 FOR MORE INFO

Street Tree Master Plan

Many neighborhoods are now working closely with the Recreation and Parks Department's Forestry Division to provide input to the plan for their street trees. Input is still being sought from neighborhood associations and individuals. To voice your opinion, call Steve Mader, City Forester, at 301-309-3038.

The Street Tree Master Plan's main focus is to provide a designated species

for each planting space on all city streets. The goal is to provide uniformity on each street, with a diversity of species in each neighborhood. Trees are being selected based on specific site conditions, such as size of planting space, overhead utility wires, etc. Trees will only be removed and replaced as they die or become damaged or hazardous.

All street trees in the Twinbrook area were individually assessed by a consulting arborist, City staff, and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Forest Service. The DNR has recommended the removal of about 180 trees (out of 4,000+ total) in Twinbrook, due to poor overall health, hazardous condition, etc.

These trees will be removed and replaced over the next two years, beginning this summer. An additional 1,200 trees have been placed on a "watch list" to be monitored closely in future years.

CALL 301-309-3038 FOR MORE INFO
• OR •

CALL 301-309-3036 FOR MORE INFO

Unity Bridge Construction Update

Construction on the Unity Bridge (formerly the North Rockville Pedestrian Bridge) has been postponed until Aug. 15. Work was originally scheduled to begin in June.

The work has been delayed until all necessary components for the construction are on site. This includes large steel

beams that must be specially coated and more than 300 decorative mesh panels.

The bridge will be closed for approximately six to eight months after the work begins. During that time, the bridge will receive new lighting, screening, entrance plazas, and security improvements.

When the work is completed, a ceremony will take place to re-dedicate and name the bridge officially.

CALL 301-309-3332 FOR MORE INFO

Citizens Needed to Serve on Bikeway Committee

The Mayor and Council need bicyclists of all ability levels to help oversee the development of bicycle facilities in the city.

For the past three years, a citizen group (along with the Bicycle Federation of America, an independent engineering group, and City staff) have been working diligently to develop a Bikeway Master Plan for the City of Rockville.

The plan includes routes through and around Rockville such as bike paths, bike lanes, and bike routes. Also included are improvements to intersections which will increase the safety of bicycles and pedestrians.

The plan also calls for the creation of a bicycle beltway which will include routes into downtown, recreational facilities, and Montgomery College. It also will include routes that will con-

nect bicyclists to regional bike systems.

The development of these facilities, which are primarily on-road routes, will take place in the next five years. Citizens are needed to help identify problem areas, to look for areas that could benefit from bikeways, and to be a voice for their community.

CALL 301-309-3344 FOR MORE INFO

Nelson Street Traffic Safety Improvements

The City of Rockville will host a general public open house on July 29, from 7-9 p.m., to discuss the design of the Nelson Street Traffic Safety Improvements Project. It will be held in the Azalea room at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Azalea Drive.

All interested citizens are encouraged to attend. The goal of the project is to enhance safety for pedestrians and bicyclists as well as automobiles turning to and from side streets.

The project includes Nelson Street between West Montgomery Avenue and College Parkway. The concept design includes the addition of landscaped medians and crosswalks at key intersections and the addition of two four-foot bike lanes along Nelson Street. Under the concept plan, to accommodate medians, changes to on-street parking will be made at intersections.

For those who may not be able to make the open house, copies of the draft plan will be posted at the Senior Center and at City Hall.

Grandin Avenue Water Tank Comes Down



In early June, the City of Rockville demolished and hauled away the Grandin Avenue Water Tank. The unsightly landmark, which had been out of use for several years, was removed to make way for a new City park. Above are before, during and after photos of the process.

During the demolition by Iseler Demolition, a large crane and workers were site. The tank was lowered to the ground in sections with a welder removing each piece from the tower after it was secured with rigging. The pieces were lowered onto a flat bed truck and removed from the site. The entire process took three weeks – one for setup, one for tear down, and one

for removal.

The construction on the park will begin in fall 1998 or winter 1999. The City has budgeted \$150,000 for the park. Based on neighborhood input, the new park will include:

- a large community maintained garden;
- new play equipment for small children;
- a park pathway; and
- seating areas including a gazebo and park benches.